

### 3 killed in Algeria shootout

ALGERIA (R) — Two police commissioners and a policeman were killed in a confrontation yesterday in the Algerian town of Milia, the official news agency APE said. A group of six men, claiming "Algerian Al-Aqsa" and "we will kill your enemies of God," burst into the barracks and attacked three police guards with knives, an axe and a handgrenade, it said. They seized a pistol and an automatic rifle from the police and prepared for a siege. Two policemen escaped and the others fought for their lives at a hostage. A third police officer was killed and the others were wounded, APE said. The agency added that the policemen fought like dogs but did not say how. In another report it said the assailants killed him when he refused to hand over his weapon at the start of the attack. State prosecutor Ammar Benmoula said it was too early to say what motivates the attackers had. "They are well dressed but they don't have identify papers. For the moment they are referring to God. Two were killed and two wounded of whom one, 13,215 dinars (\$1,200) on one and 12,000 (\$1,200) on the other," he told a news conference in Algiers, 40 kilometers south of Algiers.

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## King: No more room for PLO concessions

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has little room left for political concessions in getting peace talks started with Israel, according to an interview published in an American newspaper.

If the PLO appears to be

giving and giving and giving

and more is demanded of

it, what can be the result, except

shaking the foundation of confi-

dence that it has from its consti-

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popu-

larity," King Hussein said in an

interview published in the Boston

Globe newspaper.

"My fear, my worry here is that

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undermine the PLO, to destroy

its image with its own conser-

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King Hussein told the Globe that Jordan, which in 1968 ex-

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King Hussein said even though

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nerns, the peace dialogue has re-

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Finally, my feeling is that the

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He said the PLO's key decision

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He said the PLO's key decision

# Middle East News

Several thousands demonstrate in front of police barricades

## Kuwait raises option of consultative council

**KUWAIT** (Agencies) — The government has raised the option of a move towards democracy through Islamic-style consultation but short of reopening a parliament which has twice been dissolved by Kuwait's ruling family.

The state-run Kuwait Radio, in a commentary that is taken to reflect official thinking, said: "True democracy emanates from consultation which is purposeful dialogue, cooperation, understanding, wise decision and self denial."

"The democracy that we need in Kuwait is that type of democracy which ensures the collaboration of all parties and efforts to contain crises that may erupt... a democracy that closes ranks and consolidates national unity, the democracy of consultation as provided for in our Islamic religion."

The commentary was broadcast hours before several thousand Kuwaitis demonstrated in front of police blockades to press for the return of their country's dissolved parliament.

They had tried to reach the house of former Deputy Faissal Al Sanea for a scheduled rally, but police stretched barbed wire around several blocks to stop them.

The crowd, estimated by witnesses at three to four thousand, listened peacefully to speeches by deputies from the dissolved parliament before dispersing without incident.

Activists have been holding a series of weekly gatherings since early December to press for the return of the parliament, dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war.

The government has ruled the gatherings illegal and last week police used truncheons and stun grenades to break up a similar meeting at the home of former Deputy Ahmad Shairan.

Addressing Monday's meeting, former Speaker of Parliament Ahmad Al Saadoun said another rally would be held next Monday

at the home of former Deputy Abbas Munawar.

Around 150 women dressed in traditional black robes stood at one side of the crowd to listen to the speeches.

Elite troops in riot gear deployed in the area shortly before the speeches began kept a low profile as they helped police man the blockades.

Parliament was dissolved in 1976 when government policies came under harsh criticism from lawmakers. It was restored in 1975.

The body was again dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when Kuwait was threatened by Iran, when oil prices were collapsing and government policies again came under harsh fire by members of parliament.

In Qatar, the UAE and Oman, members of the council, between 20 to 40 in number, are appointed.

Kuwait has a population of 1.7 million, 60 per cent of whom are expatriates, with the largest minorities being Palestinians, Egyptians and Iranians.

Among published commentaries of recent days, Ahmad Al Rabah, professor of Islamic philosophy at Kuwait University and former deputy, said in a front page article in the daily Al Watan: "The world around us is moving with a speed whereby we cannot slow down... the regional situation is a new one following the cessation of the Iraq-Iran war. The international situation is also a new one after a downfall of the theory of totalitarianism."

Ahmad Jarallah, editor-publisher of Al Seyassah, called editorially for learning a lesson from the Egyptian and Jordanian experience of "democratic openness and allowing all parties to say their opinion."

"There is no justification for fears of freedom of expression as long as there are laws which dignity of the people as is the case in advanced countries," Jarallah added.

The commentator gave no details about an envisioned consultative body or whether it would be elected or appointed.

But the reference to consultation and Islam appeared to be a reference to the so-called Shura (consultative council) which has

been prescribed by Islam as the model for ruling.

It is a system used in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, three of the countries which Kuwait is grouped with in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Other members are Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain, like Kuwait, had a parliament elected two years after it gained independence in 1971. But it was dissolved in 1975.

An ornate building has gone up in Riyadh to house a shura council but it has yet to be formed. In all these countries, the early Islamic practice of majlis prevails, allowing inhabitants to freely call on their rulers once a week to discuss anything they wish.

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APPEAL FOR RELEASE: Young kidnapped Lebanese (l), wheelchair-bound, and crutches hand out leaflets in the southern port city of Sidon calling for the release of two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped last year.

## Geagea advocates federal system to settle civil strife

**BEIRUT** (Agencies) — Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, the main right-wing militia, has called for a federal system in Lebanon.

"Let's go for federalism," Geagea told a large audience of university students at a cinema hall in east Beirut's Ashrafieh, drinking water supplies and electricity generation," the source said.

He said the only alternatives were partition or Syrian occupation.

"Federalism is knocking on your doors so wash away the rotten (1943) political formula... and quickly open the doors for it," Geagea urged.

Geagea commands about 6,000 men. He sabres power in the small Christian enclave north of Beirut with army commander Michel Aoun who has about 20,000 mostly Christian troops of Lebanon's army under his command.

Aoun heads a self-proclaimed government which claims to be the legitimate ruler of all Lebanon in competition with the government of President Elias Hrawi based in west Beirut. Hrawi, also a Christian, was elected by parliament saying it was held under Syrian pressure.

Geagea has been quoted in local papers as supporting federalism for the past several weeks but Monday's speech was the most direct call.

"Federalism will defeat partition and domination. Federalism will win and so will Lebanon. It's the shortest road to regain Lebanon," Geagea said.

Muslim leaders have criticised calls for federalism as another

form of partition.

But Geagea argued that partition, which he rejects, means two independent states while federalism is "unity with a specific method to distribute power that would make Lebanon communities united."

Army seeks barracks

The Lebanese army has started contacts with Hezbollah to recover barracks used by the pro-Iranian militants as their headquarters in eastern Lebanon, military sources said Tuesday.

They said negotiations were still in the early stages to persuade Hezbollah to give up the barracks in the ancient town of Baabda, 65 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

The sources said the army wanted to regain control of the barracks as part of a plan to regroup and reorganise troops loyal to Hrawi.

Media reports have speculated that several Western hostages, believed kidnapped by radicals affiliated with Hezbollah, were once detained at the barracks, Hezbollah's largest base in the Bekaa Valley.

French warplanes bombed the barracks in November 1983 to avenge a suicide attack on the headquarters of French paratroopers in Beirut one month earlier.

Hezbollah officials declined comment on contacts with the army.

Greek evacuation

Diplomats of the Greek embassy, the only Western mission holding out in west Beirut, has

quietly fled to the Christian enclave north of the capital, security sources said Tuesday.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the move was carried out "quietly over the past two weeks" after the embassy received threats from a powerful Shi'ite Muslim clan in the eastern Bekaa Valley, one of whose members is held in Greece on drug trafficking charges.

The source said the four Greek diplomats also evacuated their residences in west Beirut and moved to the port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

The last Greek diplomat left west Beirut early today after they moved all their furniture and files," the source added.

The Shi'ite clan had telephoned the embassy several times threatening to attack the offices as well as Greek diplomats if the member of the clan was not released from jail in Greece," the source added. He refused to identify the Shi'ite clan by name.

All other Western diplomatic missions evacuated west Beirut during spates of terrorist attacks, including the abduction of foreigners between 1983 and 1986.

The Greek consular section, manned only by Lebanese employees, maintained services in the 12-storey building that also housed the embassy's closed offices in the Ras Beirut district.

"We send all visa applications to Jounieh to be sorted out and approved by Greek officials," said a Lebanese employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He refused to disclose the embassy's new address or telephone numbers.

## U.S. said to urge Israel to end military assistance to Ethiopia

**TEL AVIV** (R) — The United States has urged Israel to refrain from giving military aid to the embattled Ethiopian government of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Israeli foreign ministry sources said Tuesday.

He was taken to be referring to Mikhail Gorbachev's change of emphasis to concentrate on solving his country's internal problems.

After publication of the report, Zotov gave a news conference saying Syria has the right to obtain whatever weapons it feels it needs. He denied that the Soviet Union was putting pressure on Damascus.

Syrian officials and Zotov were quoted as saying relations between Syria and the Soviet Union, its main arms supplier, remained excellent.

Syria reportedly owes the Soviets \$1.5 billion for military weapons.

At his news conference, Zotov said the Syrians had 15 years in which to repay its debt and that it could be satisfied partially by delivery of goods rather than in hard currency.

Such reports are usually sup-

pressed by military censorship.

Al Hanashmar said the Israeli delegation recommended aid be delayed because Addis Ababa could fall following advances by rebels towards the capital.

The British newspaper The Independent reported that Israel had tried to sell 15 of its Kfir fighter-bombers to Ethiopia but Washington blocked the deal by barring the sale of weapons systems with U.S.-made components.

There have been repeated foreign reports that Israel was sending arms and advisers to Ethiopian government forces since Addis Ababa last November restored diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. Ties were severed during the 1973 war.

Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone Monday that two vessels had discharged arms from Israel at the Red Sea port of Asab two weeks ago.

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pressed by military censorship.

Al Hanashmar said the Israeli delegation recommended aid be delayed because Addis Ababa could fall following advances by rebels towards the capital.

Israel brought nearly 15,000 of the so-called Falashas here in a clandestine airlift codenamed "Operation Moses" in 1984-85. About 10,000 are believed to be still in the country.

Israel and Addis Ababa enjoyed warm relations until shortly before a military coup ousted pro-Western Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

Ethiopia, which controls the strategically important entrance to the Red Sea, was one of a group of non-Arab states, including Turkey and Iran, on which Israel built an informal strategic alliance in the 1950s and 1960s.

Israeli diplomats said there was no doubt the Jewish state would be keen to revive such ties.

## Syria protests Euphrates cut

**DAMASCUS** (Agencies) — Syria has joined Iraq in expressing strong concern to neighbouring Turkey over its diversion of the mighty Euphrates River, condemning it as a breach of international law.

An authoritative source said Turkish Ambassador Erhan Tunçel was called to the Foreign Ministry Monday evening to receive Syria's protest over the diversion of the Euphrates to fill Turkey's new Ataturk Dam.

The source said Tunçel was told that Syria "rejected the principle of cutting the Euphrates River flow and considered it against international law."

The diversion of the waters that began Saturday constituted an "unjustified move which would seriously affect (Syria's) drinking water supplies and electricity generation," the source said.

Iraq, which also depends on Euphrates water for irrigation and hydroelectric power, sent Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi to Ankara to express Baghdad's concern.

Iraq said Sunday it was seeking changes in Turkey's diversion plan to reduce the damaging results for millions of its people.

But Chalabi said after meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Turgut Ozal Monday that he had received assurances Turkey would give due consideration to the supply of water to neighbouring states.

Syrian officials stressed that

Damascus felt Turkey's "constituted an unjust move which would cause... damage to the environment of the river course."

Industry sources said Syria's huge hydroelectric stations at the Euphrates in northern Syria and their 100,000 hectares of cultivated land would be seriously affected by the diversion.

Syria had kept silent on the Turkish plan to tame the Euphrates but cut the waters of the river to

Turkey said the Ataturk Dam, the ninth largest in the world, would cause no harm to Syria and Iraq.

Before the waters were diverted to fill the Ataturk Dam, the ninth largest in the world, Turkey said it boosted the flow of water to Syria and Iraq.

Ankara also promised to increase the flow of water to Syria and Iraq from downstream tributaries during the 30-day damming process.

The Ataturk Dam is the centre piece of an \$11-billion project to irrigate land in southeastern Turkey and to supply by the year 2001 a fifth of the country's electricity.

The 2,330-kilometre Euphrates River originates in eastern Turkey and flows through Syria and Iraq before joining the Tigris River and running into the Gulf.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dole says cut aid to Mideast

**NEW YORK** (AP) — U.S. Senator Bob Dole says the United States should cut foreign aid to Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan by five per cent and give the money to new democracies in Poland, Hungary, Panama and other countries.

Dole, a Kansas Republican who is the Senate minority leader, made the suggestion in an opinion piece published in Tuesday's editions of the New York Times. The five countries he named as targets for reductions receive more than two-thirds of U.S. foreign assistance.

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### South, North Yemen cabinets to meet

**ABU DHABI** (R) — South and North Yemen will hold their first joint cabinet meeting Saturday in Sanaa to discuss the planned merger of their countries, a North Yemeni minister said in remarks published Tuesday. The meeting will focus on working out adequate structures for ministries in the two sectors and will yield an agreement to unify them.

The Sharija-based Al Khaleej newspaper quoted North Yemen's Information Minister Hani Al Laazi as saying North and South Yemen signed a unification accord last December.

### Slad Barre sacks 3 more top officials

**MOGADISHU** (R) — President Mohammad Siad Barre, who sacked his entire cabinet a week ago, has dismissed the mayor of Mogadishu and the heads of Somalia's two main banks. A statement by the presidency Monday night said Said Omar Afrah would replace Ali Yusuf Abdulle as the capital's mayor. It also announced the replacement of the presidents of the state-run commercial and savings bank and Somali Development Bank. No reasons were given for the changes, but they are widely seen as part of Slad Barre's moves to form a government of national reconciliation.

**Ozal to urge Bush to block resolution**

**ANKARA** (AP) — President Turgut Ozal will ask U.S. President George Bush in a meeting this week to do his best to block adoption of an "Armenian genocide" resolution by the Senate, presidential palace officials said. The officials, who requested anonymity, also said they expected Bush to raise the Cyprus issue asking Turkey to persuade the Turkish Cypriots to respond positively to U.N. sponsored efforts for a solution. Ozal flew to the United States Tuesday for a 10-day private visit and will meet with Bush at a White House luncheon Thursday.

### Syrian president receives U.S.

## Sayeh urges UNRWA to maintain all services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A reported decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services to Palestinian refugees drew a strong reaction from Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh Tuesday. He urged Arab and Muslim countries to take action and prevent such measures.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Sayeh expressed his solidarity with the representatives of the Palestinian people residing in Jordan and voiced his deep regret over UNRWA's attempt to reduce services to the refugees, which, he said, could be a first step towards ending services altogether.

Sayeh made the statement after the representatives of refugees in Jordan sent a memorandum to the UNRWA commissioner general in Vienna protesting against the agency's intended actions.

"I do hope that the news about UNRWA's intentions is not true because any reduction will have serious consequences on the allowances given to infants and pregnant women who need food supplies most," Sayeh said.

He appealed to the world com-



Abdal Hamid Al Sayeh  
munity to shoulder its responsibility since, he said, it is the international community that contributed to the creation of the problem because it had been condoning Israel's illegal practices designed to prevent any peace settlement in the Middle East.

Sayeh appealed to various Arab and Islamic countries to intervene with UNRWA and stop the intended measures, which he

described as detrimental to the refugees' interests.

The protest against UNRWA's measures coincided with the opening in Tunis of a six-day meeting to discuss UNRWA's operations, developments in the Palestine conflict, and Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

Contributions by various nations to UNRWA will be discussed in detail.

The United States cut its contribution from \$67 million in 1988 to \$61 million in 1989 and \$50 million this year, citing the need to resettle refugees elsewhere in the world.

UNRWA has been in the practice of launching world-wide campaigns on an annual basis to raise sufficient funds to finance its operations.

Sayeh Al Shabab Arabic daily quoted UNRWA officials Tuesday as saying that there were no plans to reduce any services to the refugees in Jordan. The paper quoted officials as saying that it only plans to incorporate some of the services to save on cost of operations. This merger, they said, is deemed necessary in view of the difficulties the agency was facing at this time in view of dwindling resources.

## Royal decree approves martial law amendments

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday

approving amendments to the martial law regulations for 1990.

The amendments cancel the jurisdiction of military courts on issues related to crimes, possession of firearms, communism, counterfeit currency, murder and violation of the defence law and firing arms in weddings.

The Council of Ministers last month announced the amend-

ment in response to requests by Lower House of Parliament members calling for cancellation of martial law altogether.

Another Royal Decree issued Tuesday approved of a land transport agreement between Jordan and Iraq. The agreement, which provides for facilities for transportation of goods and passengers, aims at further developing bilateral cooperation in land transport fields.

## Jewish immigration to Palestine rings alarms

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Parliament should spearhead efforts worldwide to stem the flow of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to occupied Palestinian land; and can dispatch envoys and delegations to the Eastern bloc to support the Arab cause, former foreign minister and Lower House of Parliament member Taher Al Masri said Tuesday.

"The continued migration of Jews to Israel constitutes a grave danger to the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular, and therefore Arab governments must join hands and do all they can to contain such migration," Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The new regimes in Eastern Europe will no doubt listen to the Arab and Jordanian envoys, but a concerted effort is needed by all concerned parties if the Arab bid is to achieve success at the official level," Masri added.

Masri, who chairs the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said that "confronting the emigration danger is the Arab Nation's responsibility since an increase in the manpower in Israel will increase its temptation to launch further acts of aggression on the Arab countries to settle the new-comers at their expense."

Masri said the Arab countries should also work on two other fronts: Provide material and moral support for the Palestinian intifada and exercise pressure on the United States to change its position on the conflict.

According to Ghazi Al Saadi, a Jordanian journalist and a specialist in Israeli affairs, the direct air route between Moscow and Israel, which was recently inaugurated, is bound to increase the number of Jewish immigrants.

Saudi said that between 1971 and 1985, 159,904 Jews came to Israel from the Soviet Union. In 1989 alone, a total of 71,196 Jews arrived to settle in the occupied Arab lands from the Soviet Union, up from a mere 18,965 in 1988, he added.

He said a total of 500 Jews came during November 1989 alone, and 100 others came on the first direct flight which launched the new Moscow-Tel Aviv route.

Commenting on the situation, Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh said that the arrival of thousands of Jewish immigrants will increase the sufferings of the Palestinian people because Israel will absorb the newcomers at their expense.

## Switzerland raises aid to university

AMMAN (J.T.) — Switzerland has decided to raise its contribution to the Centre for Phonetics Research at the University of Jordan from 300,000 Swiss francs to 500,000 francs, according to Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Dino Sciolli.

He made the announcement during a visit to Jordan where he inspected the centre's facilities and met with officials including University President Mahmoud Al Samra.

Samra expressed Jordan's appreciation for the assistance, which, he said, would boost the centre's services to the Jordanian and Arab public.

The centre was opened at the

University of Jordan in January 1988 to help teach Arabic to Jordanian children and to non-native speakers, and to help rehabilitate people with speech problems.

Switzerland is supplying the equipment and has also sent a team of specialists to help instruct local staff on the centre's management and services.

Equipment installed at the centre included a computer to help carry out sound analysis and a laryngograph which helps to monitor the performance of vocal cords in voiced sounds, study psycho-linguistics and the effect of communication disorders on children's speech.

## Cairo invites House to send a delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Egypt has extended an invitation to the Lower House of Parliament to send a delegation to Egypt for talks on parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Egypt.

The invitation was conveyed to House Speaker Suleiman Ayar at a meeting in his office with Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Mahab Muqbel who said that the visit would further boost bilateral cooperation.

Muqbel said the invitation was extended to Arar to visit Cairo at the head of a delegation from his Egyptian counterpart Rifaat Mammou.

Mammou said that there was urgent need to reexamine the government's 1990 public expenditure allocations and the cost of services to be offered by the central government to municipalities.

They discussed in particular the restoration of mosaics in the Madaba area and the resumption of restoration programmes in the Greco-Roman city of Jerash.

Last week, two Italian experts in mosaics restoration visited Jordan and studied areas that require further attention.

Their visit has paved the way for the arrival here of three specialists in this field which will begin first at the Greek Orthodox Church in Madaba, a statement said following Tuesday's meeting.

The statement also said that another team would soon arrive here to resume work on the restoration of Jerash archaeological sites.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A round-table conference of Arab news agencies and the information media of West Germany held its second session Tuesday with the main focus on the media coverage of Arab developments in West Germany.

A working paper presented by the chief editor of Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mohammad Habib, said that the Egyptian media give more than average Arab media coverage for external news, parti-

cularly in newspapers and magazines. The Egyptian press, he said, regularly carries features and commentaries on foreign affairs on all levels, and cited West German issues as an example.

Media links between the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) and the Arab World were initiated in 1938 in line with developing relations between the two sides, he said.

Sana Ajeli from the Libyan JANA news agency presented a working paper on the coverage of

Turkey's one-month cut-off of Euphrates River flow to Syria.

## Jordan's welfare lottery — quick money for some but aids a cause

By Nur Sadi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thousands of people throughout Jordan eagerly rush to buy the fortnightly lottery tickets hoping that by some thread of luck, they will win the first prize — or any prize for that matter.

Every third and eighteenth of the month, they hopefully flip through the newspapers first thing in the morning to either settle for what was expected or to find themselves lucky. And the cycle goes on.

This trend began in 1973 under the umbrella of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS). For a modest sum of 250 fils one could

buy a lottery ticket while the first prize was then a handsome sum of JD 2,500.

Abdullah Khatib, director of GUVS, explains that when the project began an agent was contracted to sell the tickets at a certain place. But it was soon discovered that there was a need for a different approach to sell more tickets and therefore to gain more income.

Thus an "open system" was devised whereby anyone could do the selling.

"In 1973, we used to sell 30,000 tickets each draw (every two weeks). We are now able to sell 80,000 tickets, with about 600 people selling them," Khatib told the Jordan Times.

The price of a ticket has increased to JD 2. So has the first prize, to JD 25,000. At the year's end, GUVS gives the lucky one JD 60,000.

According to Khatib, the total intake of the lottery was JD 1.7 million. Forty per cent of the amount was given away in prizes and 20 per cent was given as commission to agents.

GUVS allocated the remaining 40 per cent to miscellaneous voluntary societies in both the East and West Banks. This includes rehabilitation centres, medical centres as well as child care centres. In addition, GUVS also provides for social development centres, libraries and adoption centres and for furnishing kindergartens.

In 1989, through the many projects GUVS involved itself, one quarter of a million people in Jordan were benefited in one way or another, according to Khatib.

Although the number of beneficiaries is large, the number of the needy, poor and unfortunate are even larger. Khatib agrees that "we are doing very well through our projects, but, looking at the amount of people in need of GUVS, we cannot help but feel helpless."

But, Khatib says, the year 1990 will witness the establishment of the first phase of a cancer centre at the University of Jordan. It includes radiotherapy facilities and an outpatient clinic. The centre will cost about JD 2.7 million in addition to another \$6 million for equipment. "The problem of cancer has become a major worldwide issue and is desperately needed in our country due to a wide prevalence of the disease," Khatib said.

Currently under develop-

ment are 10 centres for the mentally retarded throughout Jordan so that people living in remote areas would also benefit. Khatib says that GUVS is also helping develop income-generating projects for local communities.

A study will be taking place aiming to provide the handicapped a chance to contribute to society.

GUVS has come a long way since it was first established and now caters its services to a wide variety of helpless people, ranging from the smallest child to the senior citizens of Jordan. Looking into GUVS future, Khatib is optimistic that the number of beneficiaries will increase.

Selling lottery tickets offers means of livelihood for young and old people (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

**FREE PLANTING:** Her Royal Highness Princess Alia participated in tree planting ceremony in Sweileh organized by Amman's Education Department to mark Arbor Day (see photo). In Manar, officials and citizens participated together in planting forest and fruit trees in various parts of the governorate. Zarqa governorate decided to celebrate the occasion on Jan. 25.

## Association urges ministry to help find work for geologists

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Geologists Association (JGA) urged the Ministry of Labour to try to find work for unemployed geologists through contacts with other Arab countries, the association's president, George Haddadin, said Tuesday.

The JGA also expressed hope

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**CONDOLENCES:** His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the residence of Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talib to convey condolences on the death of his brother Mousa Abu Talib (Petra).

**ABC PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT:** Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Executive President Abdulsalim Saudi wound up a visit to Jordan Tuesday and left for Bahrain. During the visit to Jordan, Saudi paved the ground for the opening of an ABC bank with a JD 10 million capital (J.T.).

**EUPHRATES EXPLANATION:** Two senior officials from Turkey are currently visiting Amman to clarify and explain the decision to cut the waters of the Euphrates from Jan. 13, 1990 for a period of one month to fill the now completed Ataturk Dam in Turkey. The two officials are the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Economic Relations with the Middle East countries, Necati Vican, and the assistant director general of Turkish State Hydraulic Works, Omid Bilek (J.T.).

**SUPPLY DIRECTORS MEET:** Directors of the supply departments in Jordan held a meeting Tuesday at the Ministry of Supply. Participants in the meeting discussed the situation of essential supplies in the Kingdom and administrative matters. Minister of Supply Nabil Abu Huda, who chaired the meeting, emphasized the ministry's interest in satisfying the citizen's needs and called the group to do their best in providing supplies in reasonable prices (Petra).

**NEW BOOK:** "Jerusalem in History," a new book written by nine scholars and edited by Dr. Kamal Asali, has been recently published in England. The book traces the history of the city for the last 5,000 years. Scholars from the U.S., Canada, Britain, Holland, Germany, Iraq and Jordan wrote different chapters of the book. According to historian Albert Hourani: "This is a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the history of Jerusalem based on a wide variety of sources. The chapters summarise the present state of scholarship, and some at least of them break new ground."

**HAMDAN HONORED:** Yarmouk University held a ceremony Tuesday to honour Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, the university's former president who was appointed minister of education and higher education in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Hamdan was presented with the university's shield by his successor to the post Dr. Ali Mabsut (Petra).

**MINISTRY GIVES BOOKS TO SWEDEN:** Ministry of Culture presented a collection of 54 books as well as children's magazines published in Jordan to the Swedish embassy in Amman. A ministry spokesman said that the gift was aimed at encouraging exchange of books and other publications with other countries (Petra).

**MEDICINE CONSIGNMENT:** A Syrian team was expected in Amman Tuesday to negotiate the purchase of a consignment of Jordanian medicine, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The paper said in the past year Jordan sold \$60 million worth of pharmaceutical products to Syria that was paid by barter, supplying Jordan with cereals and cooking oil.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** Programmes to be carried out by the Ministry of Social Development and its affiliated centres during 1990 were reviewed at a meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Al Shireeh. Matters related to training of ministry officials were also reviewed at the meeting (Petra).

**HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION:** A four-day exhibition of handicrafts was opened at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Monday. On display are samples of artificial flowers, dresses, and ceramics by female trainees at the Vocational Training Corporation's centres.

**STANDARD OF DOCTORS:** The Continued Medical Education Committee at the Karak Health Department has prepared a plan designed to promote the standard of doctors working at medical centres in the governorate by attending lectures during the next two months. This plan is also intended to introduce doctors to means to tackle various cases, to introduce them to achievements in medicine and to promote cooperation among various sectors working in this field (Petra).

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITION

\* An exhibition entitled "They chose 36 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

#### LECTURE

\* A lecture, in French, on Andre Malraux by Noel Favreille to mark General de Gaulle's centenary birthday anniversary at the French Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.



Selling lottery tickets offers means of livelihood for young and old people (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

## Jordan Times

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## Difficult time for Gorbachev

AT the end of his recent visit to Lithuania, Mikhail Gorbachev said the most stupendous and daring thing yet in his career when he declared that he was willing to entertain multi-party system of government for the Soviet Union. The Soviet leader might have said these words in desperation after having failed to convince the Lithuanian leaders to go back on their decision to break away from Moscow. This is not to mention that the Soviet president is beleaguered by many challenges and dangers the least of which are not only the widening turbulences in the south and west of the country. The big question remains whether Gorbachev can salvage the situation for himself and his perestroika and glasnost after all the bold concessions that he has been making within and outside his country. Having the Pandora box opened and the genie out of the jar, the Soviet leader seems to have reached the point of no return. What is even more ominous is the fact that the events unfolding in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe have strained his capacity to cope with them.

Now there is a growing fear that the very survival of Gorbachev is at stake. What dangers to his own career loom in the horizon or worse still in the dark is something that the international community must be most concerned about. And what words of advice can all governments truly concerned about the continuing success of Gorbachev's imaginative reforms offer to Moscow at this very critical juncture must be uppermost on the minds of leaders everywhere.

To be sure one hopes that the Soviet leader perseveres with his new ideas. The fact that he is beginning to reflect on introducing pluralism to the Soviet system of government is most encouraging. But will he be able to continue this road of openness and still deal effectively and realistically with the mounting wave of nationalism in and around the southern and western wings of the Soviet Union is something else. Will Moscow ever go to the extent of viewing its long range interest as being better served without maintaining a mosaic country composed of so many nationalities that have very little in common? These are very difficult questions and the answers to them are even harder. Nevertheless it would be presumptuous on the part of the concerned international community to preempt the thinking of Moscow on how best to deal with the new situation in the Soviet Union. And as long as the Soviet Union has chosen the democratic way to address its contemporary conflicts and challenges, there will always be hope that the answers to all such issues could be just around the corner.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday commended the leadership of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan which have worked hard over the past year to implement the principles and goals of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) created last February in Baghdad. The paper said the leadership succeeded in the first year of the ACC life to carry out considerable work, leading towards integration among their countries through meetings held at the ministerial and committee levels. The paper referred to the highest ministerial committee meeting grouping the heads of government which is being convened now in Baghdad, and said that it will review past year's work within the ACC group and pave the way for an ACC summit in Amman next month. The various agreements and discussions that aimed to boosting cooperation among the four countries and the different plans for future action are expected to be summed up at the Baghdad meeting which will be considered as a session for evaluation and assessment of the past year's achievements. The paper paid tribute to the leaders of the four ACC nations for creating the very positive atmosphere that enabled the ACC's various agencies to forge ahead with fruitful work and attain success.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday criticizes political factions in Lebanon which, he says, continue to place obstacles in the path of implementing the Arab League mediation mission and the Taef Resolutions passed by the Lebanese parliament. Abdallah Rashed Omar draws attention to the fact that Michel Aoun and his group are living in the past in the period of the Phoenicians and totally disregarding the developments around Lebanon and ignoring the Arab World in which Lebanon is situated. He says that as the three-member Arab League mediation committee Tuesday resumes its mission to bring peace to the embattled nation, Aoun and his group continue to oppose the unanimous agreement of the Lebanese parliament and the will of the Arab Nation. What is more, Israel continues to occupy parts of southern Lebanon and to cause tension and conflicts within Lebanon itself, the writer notes. He says that like Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon being country bordering on Israel, it has been affected by the Zionist aggression, but due to the lack of cohesion among its various groups, if faced a civil war and continues to face a gloomy future due to the obstinacy of extremist factional leaders.

Al Dostour daily commented Tuesday on Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territories, and said that the Israeli leaders faced with the influx of great numbers of Jews are now planning to expand their aggression and occupation plans in the Arab region. The paper said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been lately talking about creating a greater Israel to absorb the immigrants from the Soviet Union, and about holding to the occupied Arab lands where the first newcomers will be settled. This fact, the paper said, should open the eyes of the Arab leaders who should take note of this looming danger and plan a counter-action. The nearly one million new immigrants could prompt Israel to make out of them a nucleus for a new wave of expansion and a new aggression on the Arabs, said the paper. The Arab leaders, the paper continued, should now approach the Soviet Union and draw its attention to the negative consequences of such migration which can never help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## Israel's strategic value: will it lessen with Soviet-U.S. thaw?

By Nicolas B. Tatre  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — As Soviet-American tensions ease, Israel's value as a strategic ally is being questioned, and Israeli officials are concerned this could lead to cuts in military aid.

Mark Heller, a senior analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the Soviets were likely to be less supportive of radical Arab governments and no longer viewed as a source of instability.

"As the perceived Soviet threat to the Middle East declines, so may the strategic value of Israel in the eyes of American policy-makers," he said.

A major argument in providing Israel with \$1.8 billion a year in military aid has been its value as a strategic ally, one that could pre-position equipment, supply the U.S. Sixth Fleet and be counted on in a showdown.

"There is no longer a common adversary," said Heller, suggesting aid cuts could ultimately result.

More conservative analysts dis-

agree. They suggest Israel could become an even greater asset if the United States is forced to close down bases in Europe but wants to retain the ability to defend its interests against governments like Libya and the Islamic republic in Iran.

"Expansionist powers in the region could threaten the free flow of oil and maritime trade routes. These are constant American interests that will have to be defended even if no Soviet threat is perceived," said Dore Gold, also of the Jaffee Centre.

One sign of continuing U.S. influence came last week when U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz expressed interest in having access to bases in Israel, according to sources who demanded they not be identified.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is in Washington this week for talks with U.S. officials on future military aid, said one basic element has changed. He said the superpowers no longer fear a Middle East war would grow into a U.S.-Soviet confrontation as happened during

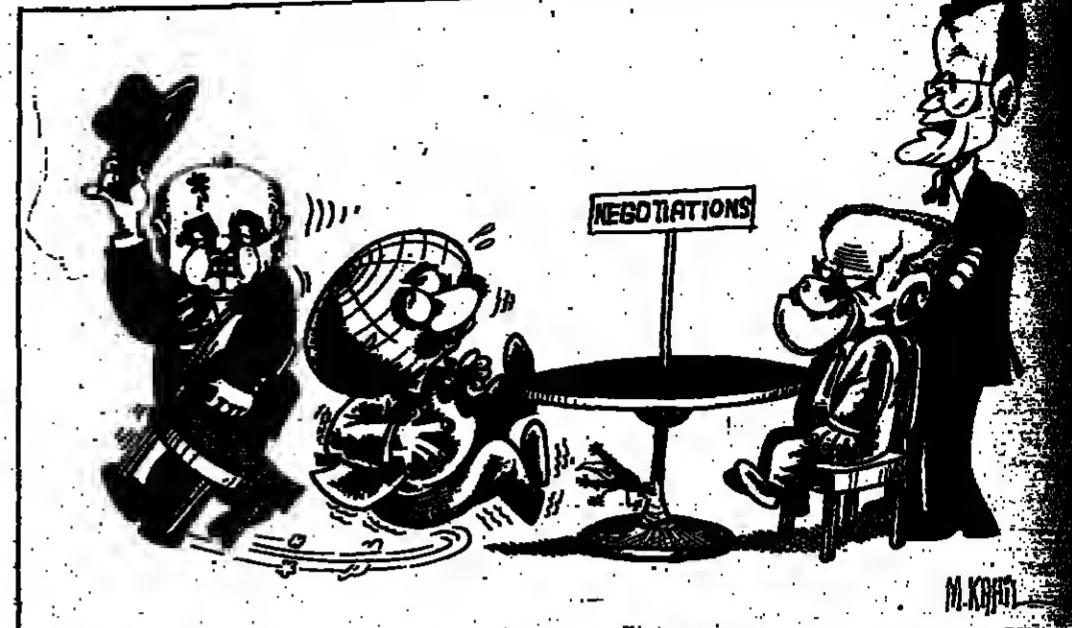
the 1973 Mideast war. The Soviet Union, the main military supplier to Arab states, threatened to introduce troops to bolster the Arab side during the 1973 war, and then U.S. President Richard Nixon put American troops on nuclear alert.

"In the past, many books were written that tried to describe the Middle East as the focal point from which the third world war would start. This fear is over," Rabin said in a recent speech to a conference of visiting Jewish journalists.

Less worried about a confrontation and tied up with their own arms negotiations, Rabin said the Soviets and Americans were not as eager to tackle intractable regional conflicts like the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Whether one or the other of the superpowers will realize that the gap between the positions of the two sides is too wide, they tell the two parties 'go to hell. You want to quarrel. You want to use violence. Do it until one of you, or both of you, will become tired.'"

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he suggested the thaw in cold war attitudes may be a



Rabin has reportedly set up a task force to study the impact of U.S. defense cuts on Israel.

An aide to Finance Minister Shimon Peres said in the past two weeks the real value of aid to Israel declined about 5 per cent because of inflation.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he suggested the thaw in cold war attitudes may be a

factor in Washington's decision not to compensate Israel for the loss.

"I will not tell you I don't foresee any new thinking in the United States," said the official, who argued that Israel could avoid any threatened aid cuts by moving quickly to get involved in the peace process.

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson of California, the senior Republican on

the Senate Armed Forces Committee, told reporters dimly involved here last week that Israel remained a strategic ally and aid should not be cut because "premature euphoria" over changes in the Soviet bloc.

"I think there are a number of people who are eagerly anticipating a peace dividend that may not be as large as they think," he said.

peoples of this indifference, which most people recognise and see as something that will take years to change.

"If we can't face responsibility for that, we won't be able to face responsibility for our complicity in the last 40 years," said one Czechoslovak.

There is also a possible city-country divide. In the countryside, a lot of local party bosses still think they are very important," one Western diplomat commented.

There are signs that some country people are frightened by recent events. "Why are you people in Prague changing everything?" one villager complained to a Prague woman.

National differences loom, with organisations deciding whether to form or reform as federal groups or split up into Czech and Slovak parts. Leading politicians such as Christian dissident Jan Carnogursky, for example, will have to decide whether to be regional or national figures.

There are two Czechs in the population for every Slovak, and as another diplomat noted, "The

were still plenty of exam-

ples of this indifference, which most people recognise and see as something that will take years to change.

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There are signs that some country people are frightened by recent events. "Why are you people in Prague changing everything?" one villager complained to a Prague woman.

On a sad note that reminds one of the country's past, one man explained why even the most pessimistic person must remain positive.

"I simply couldn't live through another '68," he said, referring to the hopes for democracy briefly raised by the "Prague spring" under Alexander Dubcek, only to be crushed by a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion later that year.

"If we lost it all again I would commit suicide."

## In troubled East Europe, Czechoslovakia remains optimistic

By Susan Greenberg  
Reuter

PRAGUE — "I keep thinking I'll wake up and it will all be a dream. I walk past the posters of Havel and ask my daughter to pinch my arm, to tell me it's true."

Comments such as this one from Yamulka, a teacher, are common in Prague. But of all the East bloc countries caught up in the whirl of radical change, Czechoslovakia appears to show the most confidence.

Romania is reeling from a wave of violence, East Germany worries that real change will still be snatched away and Poland and Hungary face deep economic crisis.

But the very caution which helped keep Czechoslovakia one of the most conservative Communist states in the East bloc now stands it in good stead as a basis for solid change. People are aware of the problems ahead but

their traditional pessimism has given way to real hope.

There are several factors behind this. There is a strong feeling of pride that people found their own strength and brought about real change at the top, not just "the same people saying different things."

In Vaclav Havel, the leading ex-dissident and playwright, the country has a unique national figurehead in the tradition of the republic's founding father, Tomas Masaryk.

His election on December 29 represented a reversal of fortunes, with the ex-prisoner replacing his jailer. He is also someone whom people trust as uninterested in personal gain or power.

Havel has said he wants to quit after elections planned for June, but his supporters may not let him.

The powerful Civic Forum opposition movement, which led the fight to topple the Communist party from power in November

The controversy over a possible apology to the Sudeten Ger-

mans expelled after World War II also points to problems of facing up to the past.

"If we can't face responsibility for that, we won't be able to face responsibility for our complicity in the last 40 years," said one Czechoslovak.

Civic Forum is powerful but is still unsure how to proceed as a "non-party party." Young people were attracted to the unity of a fight against the Communists but the present idealism will eventually have to give way to normal politics.

National differences loom, with organisations deciding whether to form or reform as federal groups or split up into Czech and Slovak parts. Leading politicians such as Christian dissident Jan Carnogursky, for example, will have to decide whether to be regional or national figures.

There are two Czechs in the population for every Slovak, and as another diplomat noted, "The

were still plenty of exam-

ines in the surrounding streets of Vilnius for a candlelit pro-independence demonstration Thursday night on Gorbachev's first day in town. The president steered clear of that rally, but at every stop, he met protesters carrying the yellow, red and green flags of independent Lithuania, or chanting "freedom."

Despite their fervor, the en-

counters were without exception civil.

At one stop, Gorbachev gazed at the posters calling for freedom and joked, "and you say you are not free."

Local police linked arms in a human chain to keep the crowd from surging forward and overwhelming what Lithuanian officials described as the first Soviet empire to disintegrate, his approach could provide an orderly, peaceful alternative to chaos.

It was only nine months ago that Soviet troops armed with shovels and gas waded into a singing, dancing crowd of 10,000 pro-independence demonstrators in Tbilisi, Georgia, killing 19 demonstrators. A Soviet parliamentary commission has condemned the decision to use force against the peaceful protesters, but citizens still worry openly.

They also know Gorbachev faces hard-line opponents who are more likely than he is to crack down on those bent on breaking out of the union.

In tiny Lithuania, with just 3.7 million of the Soviet Union's 287 million people, the two-year fight for restoration of independence has been remarkably peaceful.

Hundreds of thousands of people packed the central square and

would set himself up for failure in Lithuania. It appears he intended to demonstrate that even secessionists — if peaceful — will be fought with reason and logic, not tanks and troops.

And just as significantly, his whole nation watched the faceoff.

At every stop on Gorbachev's three-day tour of Lithuania, he encountered people shouting "freedom," and waving placards calling for independence for the tiny Baltic republic. Lithuania was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 after a mere two decades as a sovereign state.

It was obvious even before Gorbachev left Moscow that he had no chance of achieving his assigned task of persuading Lithuanian Communists to reverse their decision to break with the national Soviet party and support independence for Lithuania.

Each night on the national television news, millions of Soviets saw Gorbachev confront the demonstrators with humour or with

logic, not tanks and troops.

One carefully selected crowd would have been on hand to cheer the Soviet leader and any open dissenters would have been hustled away by police. On this trip, Gorbachev treated yelling protesters as if they were an ordinary part of political life.

Perhaps from now on, they will be.

It seemed unlikely that Gorbachev, who has demonstrated his extraordinary political acuity in redefining the postwar world,

allowed into Punjab to investigate widespread allegations of abuse.

Gandhi rebuffed each request, saying the Indian legal system has no idea of what really happened. We have been misled by the police so many times we are truly cynical," said one.

The violence from both sides leaves people scared.

"Everybody knows the vigilantes have not been paid since V.P. (Singh) came to power and everybody knows they have got into the extortion business," said a Sikh businessman in Amritsar.

"When you get a letter demanding money on, say, Bhindranwale Tiger Force-headed note paper, you don't know whether it's come from the boys (militants) or who it's come from. You pay anyway," he said.

Militant kidnappings for ran-

som are frequent. Journalists say a prominent local figure kidnapped recently was told he had been exploiting people and now it was his turn to be exploited.

They said he paid a 2.1 million rupees (\$120,000) ransom and has then told if one word of this was published his family would be wiped out.

Officials said militants were now turning their money-making efforts on income-tax inspectors, telling them they had been "stealing" people long enough and now it was their turn to pay.

"Life may look normal enough in Amritsar, but it's not. We're all scared. This used to be a city that was open around the clock. Now it's closed down by 10:30 at night," the businessman said.

Journalists mistrust the figures. "Half the time we have no idea of what really happened. We have been misled by the police so many

The all-women crew of Maiden (above) fight sea and wind and steer their ship (right) to victory.

## Maiden's fantastic voyage

By Louise Chanan

IT WAS getting towards midnight. The launch had passed Rangitoto, the extinct volcano that rises out of the middle of Auckland Harbour, and was heading north. Perched on a plastic stool, Pat Edwards — mother of British yachtswoman Tracy Edwards — lit another cigarette and gripped the side of the boat with her free hand. She hated the water and her knuckles turned white with tension. "I mustn't let Tracy see me smoking. I've given up really — I used to smoke 80 a day you see. Of course, she smokes, but it's different for Mim, isn't it? Oh God, I'm so nervous. Listen to me!"

From the upper deck, a voice called down. "Look! I can see them!" And, yes, a tiny speck of red light at the top of the mast was just visible, coming silently through the blackness of sea and sky. The boat raced to meet it and a rousing, tearful chorus of cheers greeted the all-women crew of Maiden as she reached New Zealand at the end of the third leg of the nine-month long, 33,000-mile Whitbread Round The World Race.

They flashed their lights, shouted a greeting, but it wasn't yet over. There were still a few miles to go and Maiden was racing. While the supporters' boats — now numbering half a dozen or so — were lit up and crowded with boozey, sunburned well-wishers, on Maiden it was dark and the crew were determinedly undistracted until — bang! — they crossed the finish line. Now they could start to celebrate, and two cases of ice-cold cans of beer were heaved on to the deck, along with the strawberries Pat Edwards had picked for them earlier in the day.

There were a few miles between the finish line and the reception area at Princess Wharf and the sails were pulled down while Maiden gently motored around. By now, it was one o'clock on a Monday morning. There had been huge crowds to welcome the larger, New Zealand-owned maxi several days before, but no one was expecting much at this time of night. Yet the novelty of an all-women crew taking first prize for their division was too much to miss. A crowd of around 10,000 — in a city of just under one million — was gathered on the wharf. Many of them were women, some holding bouquets and gifts for the crew.

Pat Edwards was not the only one in tears. Her daughter — 5ft 2in, dimpled and 27 — had not only skippered Maiden to win two legs in Division D of the Whitbread, but had proved, in the face of enormous scepticism, that women can sail. And, as if anything more was needed, two days later, back on Princess Wharf, she received the trophy for British Yachtsman of the Year, the first time it has been awarded to a woman.

If you're looking for positive stories about women's achievements, Maiden is a beauty. It has all the elements — a determined woman who is told she cannot do something because of her sex, a narrow-minded male establishment and a few true believers who never doubted that justice would be done.

Born in Reading, brought up in South Wales, Tracy Edwards got her first job on a boat when she was 16. She worked for a while in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, as a cook or crew member, catering to lotus eaters, but soon switched gear to racing. She was sufficiently experienced to sail in the 1985/86 Whitbread, first on Norsk Data GB, then Atlantic Privateer, where she was the cook for three legs, including one they won.

At the end of the race she approached Rear Admiral Charles William, chairman of the race committee of the Whitbread.

Round. The World Race, who gave her permission to get together an all-women crew for the next Whitbread race, four years later. "Dame Naomi James had sailed single-handed round the world, so I could see no reason why an all-girl crew couldn't do it," he recalled in Auckland.

Edwards announced her intention at the 1985 Southampton Boat Show, but the yachting fraternity gave it a frosty reception. "I wasn't surprised by the adverse reaction," said Williams, "but the adversary they met has made them try harder. I have no doubt that getting over the original in-built prejudice was the biggest problem for Maiden."

Yacht racing is a serious sport. It's about time and money and strength and the larger things in life, like death. In many people's minds that was the spectre that hung over the project. They believed that as most women are not as strong as most men, they would not be safe sailing in the most grueling of races.

To clinch the deal with Royal Jordanian as sponsors but didn't silence those who believed that women not only couldn't but shouldn't be allowed to sail the Whitbread. Former Guardian journalist Tim Madge, who is writing a book with Edwards about Maiden, remembers. "There was unquestionably a view when this project got started that not only was there no place for women on racing yachts, but that for women to sail in Whitbread could be fatal. This sort of talk undoubtedly affected their progress in getting sponsorship, but it was never true. It was simply men's perception of women and once you cut out the prejudice, you could see that it was possible."

In the three years following her announcement of the project, Edwards had been flooded with applications from women all over the world wanting to join the crew. Several had joined her in Hamble as early as 1987, but it wasn't until a week before departure — Sept. 2, 1989 — that the last member was finalised. "I had to get the combination right. How we got on as a group was vitally important. I sacked one of the crew just before we left because she was causing all sorts of problems. I wouldn't change one

of the crew I have now though."

En masse, kitted out in pink shorts and white T-shirts, they're a stunning lot, though not perhaps in the way that some might expect. From Britain, France, Finland, the U.S., Ireland, Holland and New Zealand, they're sun-tanned and well-toned, but not particularly muscular or meaty. "We joke to each other about not putting on weight when we're sailing," said watch captain Dawn Riley. "Or you'll give the public what they expect — a pack of giant lesbians! I don't know why they should think that, anyway. Men sail together and they're not gay — are they?"

Riley's been sailing since she was one month old — "My baptism party was held on a boat on Lake St. Clair in Detroit" — and, at 25, is one of the most experienced on board. She's used to sailing with men, but enjoys the camaraderie of an all-women crew. "There are differences — we can sunbathe nude and sail topless when we're off-watch. You wouldn't want to do that

when men were around. And we have an enclosed heads (toilet)

while most all-male crews just have a toilet sitting there or go up on deck and use the transom."

Claire Russell, the boat's 26-year-old doctor, reveals even more secrets of the long-distance sailor. "I talk to the doctors on the other boats (there are 23 in the race) and we compare notes."

The only real difference is that on Maiden we use a lot of creams because the girls want to look after their skin. And girls tend to keep themselves cleaner, I think,

so we don't get problems some of the men get, like fungal infections and abscesses."

The reality of life on a racing yacht is certainly no cruise. With the exception of the skipper and cook, the crew is divided into four sets of two or three, which are rostered in four-hourly watches. When they are off-watch, they can sleep, eat and relax, but never for longer than four hours.

"When we were going through the Southern Ocean from Punta del Este in Uruguay to Fremantle, we were so wrapped up in layer upon layer that it took the girls on watch about half an hour to dress and undress. That left them with only three hours to eat and sleep before they had to be on deck again," said Edwards.

Little things like clean clothes and hair lose their importance when you're sailing among icebergs or surfing at 35 knots.

Russell says that Saturdays became the day she changed her knickers, by throwing them over the side. Storage is severely limited and everything on board is subject to weight restriction.

When they're coming into port, though, vanity's permissible, said youngest crew member Jeni Mundy. "Everyone is allocated a jug of fresh water to wash their hair, shave their legs, clean themselves up. It may be macho for the men to come in looking all burnt and wind-blown, but we don't want to look like that."

Russell and Mundy hope that Maiden's success will open up more racing yachts to women, but can also see some logic in single-sex sailing. "The conditions are so cramped and you're living under such strain that you do your best to avoid any problems. And mixing the sexes can lead to difficulties — whether it's sexual attraction or jealousy or competitiveness," says Mundy.

"And being all girls is fun. We've become very close, there's an awful lot of support. If something goes wrong the other girls will sympathise — you know, 'It wasn't worth it, anyway. You deserve better.' It's very sisterly," says Russell.

Boyfriends and husbands can cause problems. "You might fall madly in love with someone, then never see them again because you never end up in the same port at the same time. But that's what this lifestyle is about. It has its negative and positive points," says Mundy who, incidentally, was greeted at Princess Wharf by a lovesick member of Steinlager 2, the leader in the maxi division.

Tracy Edwards is engaged to a property developer. He flew to Fremantle at the end of the second leg but, said Edwards, it was not an easy reunion. "It seems to be OK for women to follow the guys about, but not the other way around. He's very proud of me, but he felt uncomfortable from proving them wrong."

And perhaps it's just as well. The pressure's even stronger now they're 16 hours in the lead. "When we won the Puma leg there was definitely a feeling of 'Well done, but you were lucky.' Now they realise that it wasn't just luck. Now they know we can win, they expect us to win. I must admit, though, we're still stunned by the success. Maybe a tiny piece of us wondered if the millions of people who told us we couldn't do it were right and the 12 of us were wrong. We knew we could get around the course, and we knew we could race, but I guess we weren't at all sure how we'd race against the others. I can guarantee that at the start of the race the other serious contenders in our division (from France, West Germany and Belgium) were racing against each other and didn't think once about what Maiden was doing. But now they do," said Edwards proudly.

As the navigator as well as skipper, Edwards takes a cerebral rather than muscular approach to sailing, studying the weather and wind, juggling the shortest course against the fastest speed. And says Tim Madge, it works. "The women on Maiden really think. They're not so bothered about appearing macho. Perhaps they take the sails in a bit earlier, but

the fact that they won the last two legs proves how good they are."

Chauvinistic words are being eaten by yachting pundits, or at least they're making the right noises in public. But, says Tracy Edwards, it's not giving her the enormous pleasure she'd anticipated from proving them wrong. "I find there's no need to be smug about it. I'm just happy I've changed their minds and I do believe Maiden has done that. Maybe not overnight, but I think our success will mean that there will be more women sailing on racing boats. Maybe not in the next Whitbread, but it will happen. It's got to. Because it just wasn't fair that women should be excluded from something we enjoy doing so much!" — The Guardian

Youngest crew member Jeni Mundy



Ship's doctor Claire Russell

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## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### CEAU plans seminar in May

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) is currently contacting a number of Arab economic experts to participate in a seminar due to be held in Amman next May. The three-day seminar will discuss working papers on development and Arab economic integration in addition to the influence of the international economic variables on the economic situation in the Arab World. Taking part in the seminar will be Jordanian experts who will discuss the economic development in Jordan and its relatedness to the Arab economic integration.

### Morning Star appeals for cash

LONDON (AP) — Britain's communist daily newspaper, The Morning Star, published a front-page appeal to its readers Monday for £150,000 (\$240,000) cash to buy new equipment. The paper was "the only solution to the enormous crisis faced by the paper as the result of the drastic halving of the copies previously ordered by the Soviet Union," the newspaper said. The Morning Star's Soviet distributor, the Mezhdunarodnaya Company, halved its daily order of 12,000 copies on Dec. 25 after the Communist Party ordered it to meet efficiency guidelines. The tabloid, which marked its 60th anniversary this month, will lose an estimated \$400,000 pounds (\$650,000) of its annual income of \$1.5 million (\$2.5 million) because of the Soviet cut.

### EC unemployment declines

BRUSSELS (R) — The overall unemployment rate in the European Community (EC) dipped below nine per cent last November for the first time since 1982, the European Commission has said. The commission, the EC's executive body, said in a statement that a fall in the jobless rate from 9.7 to 8.9 per cent over the first 11 months of last year was a further sign of healthy Community economic growth. "(This) shows that the investment and growth-oriented policies of the Community are working... the aim of full employment is still far out but I am particularly happy that youth unemployment is falling even faster," said Henning Christophersen, commissioner for economic and financial affairs.

## Syria strikes oil

DAMASCUS (AP) — The French Total Oil Company has made a new strike in the Wadi Qubaid, a region of northeast Syria, an official source at the ministry of petroleum and minerals reported Monday.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave no details of the strike such as the depth it was made or the daily oil flow. But he said Total was continuing prospecting in the region to assess the size of the discovery.

Total is one of 10 foreign companies involved in exploration and development of Syria's oil fields.

Crude oil production is currently running at around 350,000 barrels a day and is expected to soon reach 400,000 barrels daily when the Aj Tayani and Al Azba fields in the northeast go on stream.

Production is double domestic requirements and last year Syria became a net exporter for the first time, with revenues of \$550 million forecast this year.

That is a major shot in the arm for the flagging economy.

The source reported that the Al Furat Petroleum Co., in which the state-run Syrian Petroleum Co. has a 50 per cent stake, West Germany's Demmer 18.75 per cent and U.S. Shell and Royal Dutch Shell with 15.625 per cent each — is conducting an assessment of the new field.

The source said the Syrian field in the northeastern Ajed Al Sham region has reached the initial phase of production. He said output will reach 30,000 barrels a day of high-quality, low-sulfur crude when development is completed.

During the second half of last year, there were many new oil finds which are in the process of being developed, he said, but gave no details.

He predicted there will be more oil and gas strikes in the coming months amid widespread exploration.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, January 16, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	112.7
500	1050	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.1
1000.0	1051.7	Dutch guilder	339.6
382.5	386.7	Swedish crown	105.8
430.1	434.4	Italian lira (for 100)	51.5
		Belgian franc (for 10)	184.3
			186.1

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6503/13	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1632/42	Canadian dollar
1.7103/10		Deutschmarks
1.9285/95		Dutch guilders
1.5278/88		Swiss francs
35.82/87		Belgian francs
5.8075/25		French francs
1272/1273		Italian lire
145.45/55		Japanese yen
6.1910/60		Swedish crowns
6.5690/40		Norwegian crowns
6.6210/60		Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	414.00/414.50	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed weaker after nervous trading, pulled down by a heavy fall in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries index fell 6.3 to 1,675.4.

TOKYO — Worries about falling bond prices intensified, sending the Nikkei index plunging more than 800 points before a partial recovery at the close. The index ended at 36,850.36, down 666.41 or 1.78 pct.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index tumbled 34.90 to close at 2,751.79 in response to sharp declines in Wall Street and Tokyo.

SINGAPORE — Share prices retreated in the afternoon to close broadly lower in line with sharp losses on the Tokyo bourse. The Straits Times index fell 13.04 to end at 1,512.50.

BOMBAY — Shares fell for the second day on fears of heavy taxes in the budget for fiscal 1990/91, ending March.

FRANKFURT — Shares dived more than three per cent amid concern that reforms in Eastern Europe could come to a halt if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is forced out of office. The DAX index of 30 blue chips fell 52.93 to close at 1,768.68.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower on profit taking after the market took its lead from weak German shares. The SPI index fell 17.4 points to 1,122.5.

PARIS — French share prices fell two per cent to the day's low at mid-session, continuing Monday's slide in reaction to sharp drops on Wall Street and Tokyo, but volumes remained thin. The CAC-40 index was 40.46 lower at 1,922.43 by 1230 GMT.

LONDON — Shares moved off day's lows in late trading as Wall Street defied market's worst fears falling only modestly in early trade. By 1544 GMT the FTSE was 27.3 easier at 2,338.9.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks remained lower across the board, but blue chips were finding technical support at moderately lower levels. The Dow was off at 2649.

## Iraq shifts refined oil products exports to crude

DUBAI (R) — Iraq has cut exports of refined oil products built up during and after the Gulf war as its vast crude export capacity returns to peacetime normality, oil traders said.

They said the move was a major policy change for Iraq which relied heavily on product sales when the eight year conflict with Iran hit crude exports as a source of sorely-needed cash to fund its war machine.

Iraq devised tortuous methods for exporting refined products to lessen the risk of Iranian attacks during the war which ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988, and expanded afterwards because of war damage.

But it has become just too costly to truck through Jordan and Turkey and use small tankers from shallow ports.

"Iraq was trucking products through Turkey and Jordan during the war, but now it has surplus crude export capacity," an oil analyst based in the Gulf said.

Oil industry sources said Iraq has stopped trucking products through Jordan and is phasing out products exports through Turkey. "Iraq wants to close down its small refineries and plans to use

whatever it produces at home," a Gulf-based oil trader said. There may be a small surplus of fuel oil after the bigger refineries have satisfied domestic needs, he added.

Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) has reduced first-quarter naphtha exports to three Japanese companies from the Jebel Ali port in Dubai, other traders said.

Iraq reopened its 140,000 b/d Basra refinery early last year after extensive repairs.

Last week Iraq officially inaugurated its main crude oil export pipeline through Saudi Arabia, which has a design capacity of 1.65 million b/d.

Oil industry sources said Iraq's current crude export capacity though pipelines via Turkey, Saudi Arabia and from its partially repaired Gulf deep water Al Bakr oil terminal is about five million b/d.

Its sales quota of crude and refined products determined by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) totals currently 3.14 million b/d.

Such a three-way dialogue was needed in part because Arab and other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) might not themselves be able to raise the money needed to restore their oil output capacity to meet rising demand.

"I would like to say that if no action is taken now, the world may well be heading towards another damaging oil crisis," Yamani said in a speech.

The main factor that raised inflation was housing," said Finance Minister Shimon Peres, who had predicted single-digit inflation for 1989. Actual inflation in 1988 was 16.4 per cent.

"Housing prices were increased partly by expectations of mass Jewish immigration and partly by the actual immigration," Peres said.

Koor workers have protested at the proposed sale and threatened to block roads from Tuesday and bar potential purchasers from company premises, Iain News Agency said.

Representatives of Koor works committees also threatened to begin a strike next Sunday in all the company's subsidiaries and set up a permanent vigil outside the prime minister's office.

A spokesman for Havrat Ha-dim, the corporate arm of the Histadrut labour federation which owns Koor, said the company had accepted Gafny's resignation with regret.

Koor is due to make a key interest payment on \$105 million of U.S. bonds at the end of January and some company officials have expressed concern that if it defaults, creditors may move

Consumer prices rose in all areas in 1989, but a 35.2 per cent rise in housing costs and shekel devaluations of more than 16 per cent were mainly to blame for the high rate, the bureau said.

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He said 25,000 Jewish immigrants came to Israel in 1989, mostly from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, while less than half that number were expected a year ago.

In December 1989, consumer prices rose by 1.1 per cent, compared with 0.5 per cent in December.

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## Jordan phosphate exports booming

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, the world's third biggest rock phosphate exporter, earned a record \$434 million from its highest-ever exports of the fertiliser base last year.

"1989 was a record year from all angles," Wasif Azar, managing director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), told Reuters in an interview.

He said the company would increase earnings this year and hoped to boost exports to Eastern European countries trying to implement reforms that would lead to freer markets.

"We have to see what happens in Eastern Europe. We could have a better situation there," Azar said.

The phosphate industry, helped by rising world prices, is a bright spot in Jordan's recession-hit economy.

Central bank figures show that sales of phosphate rock and fertiliser derivatives produced by JPMC accounted for 44 per cent of Jordanian exports in the first eight months of 1989.

Azar said JPMC had exported 6.4 million tonnes last year, compared with exports of 5.8 million tonnes in 1988.

Fertiliser exports last year went mainly to East Africa and South Asia, instead of to Europe as in the past, Azar said.

JPMC made a gross profit of 109 million dinars (\$160 million) and will pay 50 million dinars in company tax. The board of directors had recommended paying a dividend of 20 per cent to shareholders, against 15 per cent in 1988.

Azar expected world phosphate prices, which have firmed in recent years, to rise by \$2 or \$3 a tonne in 1990 to a range of \$38 to \$52, depending on grade and quality.

The new Shidiya mine, being developed in the southern desert with help from the World Bank and Arab funds, produced 800,000 tonnes of phosphate rock last year, compared with 300,000 in the previous year.

The Aqaba fertiliser plant, which in 1988 made a small profit, its first since it began operating in 1982, contributed 19 million dinars (\$28 million) to JPMC's 1989 profit.

JPMC has been discussing joint ventures to produce phosphoric acid, compound fertiliser and triple superphosphate with India, the Soviet Union and Pakistan.

Azar said he hoped expansion plans, involving up to six joint ventures, would be clarified by June.

## West Germany extends stock exchange hours

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany's eight stock exchanges

Monday started opening for three hours each trading day instead of two as part of a campaign to counter competition from foreign bourses.

An advisory council includes ex-chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker and Soviet academic Alexander Arbatov.

The centre will hold seminars for select participants and circulate in-depth reports. Two have already been commissioned, on East Europe and on the production capacity of the Gulf.

Yamani, who has substantial private means, said finance was no problem.</p

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1990 7

## 'UAE reaching WC finals a dream come true'

**ABU DHABI**, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates' success in reaching the World Cup finals in Italy this year is "a dream come true," but it was little chance of getting past the first round, the former national squad captain said Monday.

But Ahmed Eissa stressed in an interview with the Associated Press that the UAE team is out to play hard and gain the most experience it can playing the world's top soccer teams.

"It's a dream come true for the UAE," said Eissa. "I never expected to see the team qualify for the World Cup finals in my lifetime."

It will be the first time the Emirati squad has reached the finals of soccer's top tournament. The UAE is grouped with former champions West Germany.

Yugoslavia and Colombia in the 34-nation finals starting June 9.

"I naturally we're overjoyed, but we know that we don't progress beyond the first round. However, that won't stop us from giving our best," Eissa said.

Eissa, who has watched the Germans, Yugoslavs and Colombians play, noted: "They're all very good and professional."

"It's unique experience for the Emiratis to play with the world's best teams and we mustn't waste this opportunity."

He added: "The players must be prepared to work hard. They must not only make the best use of the opportunity, but keep the UAE and Gulf flag flying high with their performances."

"Even when they're losing, they must lose heart. They must fight on."

Eissa, 38, was the captain of

the UAE's first national squad when it was formed in 1972 and stayed on as skipper until 1980.

When he began his soccer career — he played midfield — the UAE, a federation of seven Gulf emirates, had been formed only a few months earlier.

In those days, soccer games were played on sand. But the sport has come a long way since the Emirates' oil wealth was spent lavishly on providing facilities and developing players.

There are now 29 clubs in the UAE League, split into two divisions, reflecting soccer's coming of age in the Gulf region.

In recent years, Kuwait and Iraq have also qualified for the World Cup finals. Saudi Arabia took part in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and won the junior World Cup last year.

Soccer was introduced into the UAE about 1940, back in the days when the emirates, then known as part of the trucial coast, were under British protection. British teams arranged friendly games in the region.

The former Al Ahli Club captain now works for the country's governing sports body, the UAE

supreme council in the youth and sports.

"We Arabs took to football... because we love an exciting sport," Eissa said.

"Before the UAE was formed, each emirate had different leagues and the standards were low. But after the national league was formed in 1972 things began to get better organised."

For a while, clubs in the emirates of Dubai played on astro-turf pitches. But these were abandoned in the early 1980s because of a high injury rate and the lower cost of maintaining grass pitches.

Eissa was one of the driving forces behind a 1983 move to ban foreign players from competing in local leagues.

At that time, the Gulf countries were using their oil wealth to attract Arab and international stars to strengthen their national teams.

"When the football association decided to ban foreign players, it hoped that would allow local players to fill the gaps and give them an incentive to play better football," Eissa said.

"Now we know that it's paid off and we're happy about it."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHMAM NURSCH

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#### COUNT YOUR TRICKS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**

♦ A J 10 3 2  
♦ 6 5  
♦ 4 3  
♦ J 4 2

**WEST**

♦ K 8 7 6 4

♦ 9 3 2

♦ Q J 10 9 7

♦ K 10 8 5 ♠ Q 10

have responded originally on a slightly sub-standard hand.

West led a diamond, and declarer won the first trick since she did not want a heart lead. She led the queen of spades, and West covered with the king. How would you continue at rubber bridge? Would you play differently at duplicate?

With five last tricks outside the spade suit, you need four tricks from that suit to make your contract. At rubber bridge the play is easy—allow the king of spades to hold the trick. That will guarantee your contract whenever a spade break either 3-3 or 4-2, or about 84 percent of the time.

But what about at duplicate, where overtricks are so vital? It is still the right play? Why? Because a 3-3 spade split has less than a 36 percent probability, and if spades break 4-2 the contract will go down if you capture the first spade trick. Note also that a four-spade contract is no bargain after a diamond lead. Declarer will probably have to find an even spade split with the king outside to get home.

North's five-card suit and honor in partner's club suit was just enough to warrant raising to game. Note that the jump to two no trump, since it gives an exact count of the South hand, is not a game force. It can be passed should North

Opening lead: Six of ♦. We're about to give you some advice which will fatten your wallet if you're a rubber bridge player, but might wreak havoc with your duplicate game. Take care of your contract and let the overtricks take care of themselves.

North's five-card suit and honor in partner's club suit was just enough to warrant raising to game. Note that the jump to two no trump, since it gives an exact count of the South hand, is not a game force. It can be passed should North

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This is a day when problems from the past will need your immediate attention and you may need to expend more time and effort than you have available.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A good time to plan trips with friends who are interesting or talented. Be considerate and take your family away from home to new places.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You will find you and your family are in harmony about your joint objectives. Don't hesitate to discuss any and all issues with your loved one.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 20) Listen closely to an outspoken person who has suggested in solving a problem. Home can be more attractive and comfortable by some new items.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 21 to July 21) Make sure any plans for outside recreations is carefully arranged. Your home can be a particularly happy place today.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get out in the world of action to carry through whatever promises you have made. You can have a very good time getting out on the town with your attachment.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) If you want to add to your home in anyway, now is the time to do so. Be ready to be off on a jaunt

to a moment's notice with your attachment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Invite into your home and entertain the most influential persons you know. Get your practical affairs on a better basis with your mate.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Discuss family plans now with an outsider who can help. Help your attachment to express his or her talent in any project there might be.

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## AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

### Becker, McEnroe ease past 1st hurdle

By Robert Woodward  
Reuter

MELBOURNE — Boris Becker, in a hurry to become world number one, and John McEnroe, who at 30 realizes time is rapidly running out, expended little effort to race into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The pair each lost just four games, Becker routing Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 on the centre court where the American number four seed earlier disposed of Frenchman Thierry Tulasne's limp challenge 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

Becker, often a slow starter in

major tournaments, was delighted with his performance in the night game. "I think it was one of the best first round grand slam matches ever for me. From the first point I was really playing very well which is not normal," the number two seed said.

Both players have claimed

three Wimbledon singles crowns

and also won the U.S. Open but

have yet to win the Australian title. McEnroe knows 1990 could be his last chance.

"I know I don't have that much time left," said McEnroe, who is bypassing the doubles here to stay fresh. "I still think I'm a long shot to win this tournament."

Becker admits he has not played to his potential at the Australian Open, never passing the quarter-finals.

But victory in Melbourne would give him three successive grand slam titles and underline his claim to be the world's best player rather than Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl.

Becker needed to play at little more than half pace against Haarhuis, who beat McEnroe at the 1989 U.S. Open.

The Dutchman appeared ill at ease, making too many unforced errors as his opponent moved him at will around the court, but Becker said he had also been nervous.

I was thinking very much about how I beat McEnroe and it made me a little afraid at the beginning," said Becker. "Maybe that's the reason why I played so well."

"But in a grand slam if you want to win the tournament you cannot play too well too early because you'll play worse by the time the quarter-final comes around. It's a fine line playing not too good and not bad."

Third seed Stefan Edberg, who saved three set points in the first set before moving past Australia's Johan Anderson, said it was too early to speak of Becker as the next king of men's tennis.

"I see myself as a contender although at the moment looking at the rankings it is a battle between Lendl and Becker and me coming a little behind," said Edberg, who reached two grand slam finals in 1989. He won 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Tuesday.

On the second day of the two-week championships only one week champion, Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany, and one women's, Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union, failed to make it through the first round.

Number 10 seed Steeb already tired after his efforts in reaching the New South Wales Open final last week, fell 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 to Finland's Veli Palohiemmi while Savchenko, seeded 12, lost out after a titanic struggle to France's Catherine Tanvier 4-6, 6-1, 12-10.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini took some time to find her range



John McEnroe

against hard-hitting American Amy Frazier, recovering from 5-3 down in the first set to win 7-5, 6-1.

Three men's seeds, Andres Gomez of Ecuador (9), Yannick Noah of France (12) and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union (11), needed five sets to reach the second round.

Noah, who defeated Steeb in the New South Wales Open final, was also still sore from his exertions and complained he could not function properly in a match that started at 10 a.m.

"I hate waking up early in the morning and having to work hard, I've never been able to be physically 100 per cent in the morning," he said after beating Yugoslav Goran Pripic, who led 3-0 in the fifth set with a point for 4-0.

Chesnokov, who conducts press conferences with the same languid grace with which Czechoslovak Milosov Mecier plays tennis, agreed he nearly left it too late to win his game against Australia's Mark Kratzmann, coming from two sets down to 5-6, 6-7, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 on Tuesday.

"When the score was 5-4 (in the third set tiebreak), I just closed my eyes and hit the ball as hard as possible," Chesnokov said.

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# World News

## Boat people protest Hurd's visit

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of Vietnamese boat people protested Tuesday during a visit by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to a detention centre, pleading against forced returns to their communist homeland.

Wearing white head bands reading "No forced repatriation," the refugees gathered in the exercise yard of Hei Ling Chau detention centre before Hurd arrived for a 25-minute visit.

In comments to reporters at the camp, Hurd said forced repatriation was the only solution to Hong Kong's boat people crisis. Vietnamese greeted the visit with shouts and fist raising.

The government began forcible repatriation on Dec. 12 in a pre-dawn operation at a detention centre in Kowloon. In all, 31 men, women and children were sent back to Hanoi.

Of the 40,000 Vietnamese in detention centres throughout the colony, about 85 per cent face being sent home because they will not qualify for refugee status under a screening process.

Hong Kong divides the Vietnamese into "economic migrants," who it says have no right to remain in the territory, and refugees, who risk political persecution at home and will be allowed to seek refuge in a third country.

Meanwhile, the United Nations announced that a group of 120 Vietnamese were to voluntarily return to their homeland Tuesday. So far, 997 Vietnamese have voluntarily gone back to Vietnam. More than 1,000 are waiting to return.

The foreign secretary, on the last day of a four-day visit to Hong Kong, said the demonstration was expected and non-threatening.

Hurd said the camps held too many people in too small a space but added that forcing them out of Hong Kong was the only way to solve the problem.

On Monday, Amnesty International issued a report harshly criticising the Hong Kong government's treatment of the Vietnamese. It accused police and security forces of beating refugees and said investigations of official brutality were quashed by the agencies involved.

The London-based human rights organisation said Hong Kong had placed the Vietnamese in "squalid" detention centres to stem the tide of refugees fleeing Vietnam. That, it said, was a violation of the U.N. Charter on Refugees.

The government called the report "unfounded" and denied the brutality charges.

### 11 found dead

The bodies of 11 women, believed to have been boat people killed by pirates, have washed up on Thailand's southern shore, police said Tuesday.

Six bodies were found on the beaches of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Sunday and five more Monday, said a senior officer on condition of anonymity.

Some of the bodies were stripped, and each had a nylon rope tied around the neck, he said. They showed no stab or gunshot wounds.

## Islamabad in inertia awaiting 'the birth'

By Malcolm Davidson  
Reuter

ISLAMABAD — Benazir Bhutto will soon become the world's first prime minister to give birth while in office, but the likely date remains Pakistan's best kept secret.

Not even her closest advisers will admit to knowing when the child is due for fear that it could give the opposition a chance to launch a challenge to her fragile government.

But while Pakistan waits, political analysts say the government machine is grinding to a standstill, with a series of tough decisions being put off until after "the birth".

It is two months since all Bhutto's ministers submitted their resignations to allow a cabinet reshuffle after an opposition no-confidence motion she narrowly survived.

She asked them to stay on temporarily but has made no move to make changes in a line-up that is widely regarded as short on talent.



## Ceausescu's son, others face charges of genocide

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — The youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu will be put on trial this week along with other close associates of the executed Romanian dictator.

Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu said Monday that the case against Nicu Ceausescu, 36, would begin this week although he did not specify the precise charges against him.

But Robu, in interviews on television and with the Romania Libera newspaper, said Ceausescu family members and associates would face such charges as complicity in genocide,abetting genocide, qualified murder and undermining the national economy.

Nicu, whose stronghold was the central provincial capital of Sibiu, was arrested shortly after Dec. 22 overthrow of his father.

Robu said those standing trial from this week would include former political and administrative personalities, members of Ceausescu's family and hundreds of "terrorists."

Romania's new rulers use the term terrorist to describe members of Ceausescu's hated secret police and anyone else who fought to keep the dictator in power.

Ceausescu's eldest son Valentin and his daughter Zoe are also under arrest awaiting trial.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day after a brief trial by a military tribunal for genocide, qualified murder and undermining the national economy.

Nicu, whose stronghold was the central provincial capital of Sibiu, was arrested shortly after Dec. 22 overthrow of his father.

Robu said those standing trial

put the matter to a referendum on Jan. 28.

The government also announced an amnesty Monday for crimes committed before the Dec. 22 revolution that overthrew the regime. It excluded from the Amnesty former functionaries of Ceausescu, murderers, rapists and "terrorists."

Trials are to begin Friday in Timisoara for II Securitate members, Rompresa said. The Securitate's shooting of demonstrators in Timisoara last month ignited the Romanian revolution.

Police had said Saturday those trials were to begin Monday. There was no explanation for the delay.

The government, meanwhile, promised Monday to consult all opposition parties on the timing of elections, but said it would make the final decision on the controversial question.

## Teenager, baby freed after uproar

LONDON (AP) — A teenage mother jailed with her baby in a shopping trolley case is to be freed, a court ruled Monday, ending a legal drama that had Britain in uproar.

Tracey Scott, a 19-year-old unmarried supermarket cashier, was jailed for six months by a judge who said he wanted to deter women from getting pregnant to avoid jail.

Her crime was to let friends walk out of the supermarket with goods unpaid for. She pleaded guilty to 10 charges of theft, and went to prison two weeks ago with her daughter, Alesha, then 10 weeks old.

Coming from Northern Circuit Judge James Pickles, the punishment was not entirely a surprise. The 64-year-old judge is known nationwide for his quirky sentencing.

Only last June he was in the headlines for jailing a witness who was too frightened to testify against a man accused of beating her up, and the day after putting

reasoning had left a "most unfortunate" impression.

The offence was not serious enough to warrant imprisonment, Lane said. A high school dropout from a broken home, Scott had been a good worker at the supermarket in Huddersfield, Northern England, and seemed only to win popularity, he said.

Pickles, the judge said, "seems to us to have been concerned more with the public import of what he was doing and saying, rather than the justice of it."

Scott is in Styal women's prison in Cheshire, and was brought to a court hearing in London Tuesday where she was to be formally released.

Pickles is an unusual judge. He flouts regulations by discussing his actions in the news media, and takes a blunt-talking populist line. "I don't like the notion of aristocracy or even monarchy," according to the 1983 report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on narcotics headed by Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

Even before the death of General Omar Torrijos, then Panama's ruling figure, in a mysterious 1981 plane crash, Noriega had the authority to issue certificates to legitimise the shipment of foreign arms to Panama.

"Once in Panama, Noriega would sell the weapons to whomever bid the most for them," the committee said, citing the testimony of Jose Blandon, a former Panamanian intelligence official and one-time Noriega adviser.

Blandon told the subcommittee that Noriega's earliest clients in the late 1970s included the Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua, who were successfully battling to oust that country's leader, Anastasio Somoza.

Noriega's associates purchased the weapons in Europe, brought them to Panama and then moved them into neighbouring Costa Rica for shipment to the Sandinistas.

Quoting Blandon, the report said that those buying guns for Noriega included Michael Harari, a retired agent of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

"What they have failed to do," he said, "is give this government any sense of purpose."

"She has to decide whether she is going to lead or always be looking over her shoulder."

The Senate panel reported

back on the hustings within days.

Most people expected the birth closer to the Nov. 16 general elections, but Bhutto kept her secret and went on to win the polls and become the Muslim World's first woman prime minister.

This inertia is also expected to be caesarean, which gives the prime minister an element of choice about the date.

Government sources say she will take about 10 days off to recuperate, but will then have to come to grips with some of her most pressing problems.

"I think there is going to be an attempt to put things on an even keel but whether she will be successful I do not know," a European diplomat said.

Her problem is that anybody she dismisses from the government will be an instant target for opposition offers and could be tempted to switch sides.

Bhutto had a majority of only 12 in November's confidence vote, which leaves little room for manoeuvre.

Bhutto fooled everybody when her first child, Bilawal, was born by caesarean section on Sept. 21, 1988. She was

## Storming of secret police HQ alarms East Berlin

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's Communists said Tuesday the storming of secret police headquarters showed the country's "street revolution" could get out of hand.

But workers in one city Tuesday ignored appeals for calm by the Communists and the pro-democracy opposition and staged a warning strike.

The six-hour strike at a state-owned factory in Gera, in southern East Germany, was staged by workers to show dissatisfaction with the still-dominant Communists, according to West Berlin's RIAS radio station.

In Bonn, the conservative daily newspaper Die Welt said Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was expected to visit East Berlin in the next two or three weeks.

Die Welt, quoting what it called well-informed sources in East Berlin, said Gorbachev planned a "massive show of support" for his long-time friend, East German Communist Premier Hans Modrow.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans protested Monday in several cities, including Jena, Zwickau and East Berlin, and mobbed ransacked secret police headquarters in East Berlin.

No casualties were reported.

At a news conference, police chief Dieter Winderlich said prosecutors were already investigating possible criminal charges against those who ransacked the headquarters.

He claimed protesters had also broken into the building's section for counterespionage activities,

but that "the identity of the workers was not revealed."

Winderlich said damage at the building was in the "millions of marks."

However, earlier Tuesday, East Berlin police chief Dirk Bachmann gave a far lower damage estimate, saying it was "hundreds of thousands of marks."

Bachmann also said opposition group's calls for restraint had prevented injuries during the storming.

The secret police headquarters remained under control of an opposition-led "citizens' committee," regular police officers and government representatives.

In a commentary Tuesday, the Communist Party daily newspaper Neues Deutschland said organisers of protests like that which preceded the storming of secret police headquarters must accept responsibility for the consequences.

"Responsibility also means having a clear idea about consequences before calling for a demonstration, so that, things don't get out of hand," the newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Neues Deutschland added:

"The call for 'no violence,' which has marked the street revolution

from the start, becomes a farce when emotions break through the bounds of reason."

Dozens of protesters in the southern city of Cottbus pelted the local secret police building with rocks, and unsuccessfully tried to enter it.

Official news media also reported

that about 500,000 people demonstrated against the Communists and secret police in at least a dozen more cities Monday evening.

Modrow rushed to the East Berlin secret police headquarters, a complex about two blocks square. He pleaded with protesters to stop their plundering of the eight-storey building.

Looking worried, Modrow stood through a loudspeaker system to the demonstrators, asking them "to stay in a dialogue" with his shaky coalition government.

Alternately facing angry interruptions and applause from the protesters, Modrow said he felt "full understanding" of the rage caused by decades of repression at the hands of the secret police.

Hours earlier, Modrow had stood through a loudspeaker system to the demonstrators, asking them "to stay in a dialogue" with his shaky coalition government.

"The protest actions are reaching further into virtually all parts of society and even all age groups. Increasingly, children are joining adults, including those in their 50s and 60s."

Opposition leaders in East Berlin issued several appeals Tuesday morning for calm and urged demonstrators to avoid further violence.

After weeks of talks with Modrow's government, the opposition returned Monday to the tactics that brought down the hardline government of Erich Honecker in October.

## COLUMN

### High noon on California freeway

LOS ANGELES (R) — One man was killed and another wounded Monday when two men who had an argument on a California freeway pulled out guns and opened fire, police said. A lorry and a van, each carrying at least two people, pulled over to the side of the Santa Ana freeway after an argument. "At least one occupant of each of the vehicles got out and exchanged some words and suddenly shots were fired," police spokesman Marc Hirsch said.

One man died after being admitted to hospital and the other was listed in stable condition with a gunshot wound. Both were in their early twenties.

### Hilda the Hippo dies after rescue

LONDON (R) — Hilda the hippo's brief taste of freedom ended in tragedy Monday. The 3-tonne hippopotamus escaped from her trailer onto a busy three-lane English highway but, after being shot with a tranquilizer dart while being washed, it didn't survive the drug that was used and the stress and trauma of the recapture.

After weeks of talks with Modrow's government, the opposition returned Monday to the tactics that brought down the hardline government of Erich Honecker in October.

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After weeks of talks with Modrow's government, the opposition returned Monday to the tactics that brought down the hardline government of Erich Honecker in October.

First among these is the release of Nelson Mandela, widely expected in the next few weeks.

Mandela's detention has been the focus of a highly successful worldwide campaign by the ANC but his release could backfire on the organisation if world opinion sees it as the end of South Africa's problems.

The ANC argue that any concessions made by de Klerk from him by pressure and that South Africa must not be "let off the hook."

His comment reflected nationalist concern that the ANC might be outpaced by fast-moving changes inside South Africa and by President F.W. de Klerk's drive to seize the initiative from anti-apartheid forces.

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